Travels in Three Continents: Elizabethan Era Explained

Many Lands and Climes Described in Travel-Books

Countries of Europe, the South Seas and Asia Are Pictured in Books of Vivid Color

By Samuel Abbott

THE BASQUE COUNTRY. By Romilly Fedden and Katherine Fedden. The Houghton Mifflin Company. $6.

NORWAY AND DENMARK. By A. F. Mockler-Ferryman and M. Pearson Thomson. The Macmillan Company. $3.50.

ITALY AND GREECE. By John Finnemore and Edith A. Browne. The Macmillan Company. $1.50.

CHINA AND JAPAN. By Lena E. Johnston and John Finnemore. The Macmillan Company. $1.50.

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND. By Frank Fox and P. A. Vaile. The Macmillan Company. $1.50.

ASTRIDE the Atlantic end of the Pyrenees lies the Basque country, a region with a history that should be more widely known to the world. For its romance—it is nothing less than that—is a thing of beauty, the annals of a self-contained race intensely individual, maintaining its life and its language for thousands of years against the encroachment of the influence of bordering peoples. The streams of European travel, especially of the tides of Americans who cross the Atlantic and then debouch along many beaten tracks, rarely touch this Basque land. And yet it has a scenery rarely picturesque, many delightful old towns, the seemingly eternal touch of the past in the matters of the present.

Few Americans know that there is good reason to believe that our country may have been seen by Basque fishermen even before the landfall of Columbus. It is strange that the Basque word for codfish, "bacalaos," was in use among Canadian Indians when the first French and English explorers went up the St. Lawrence. It is recorded in history that tons of codfish found a way to the tables of France and Spain in the early years of the sixteenth century, brought in by the boats of the Basque fishermen, who dared the North Atlantic in their quest for fish. And there are traditions of isolated adventurers who went far into the waters of the setting sun before 1500. Surely this little land of a brave people, with its possible link with America through the deeds of its venturesome seamen, should have a lure for those of us who have the money and the time for following old European trails with misty pathways extending from them overseas.

By far the best and most interesting work on this land is "The Basque Country," by Romilly Fedden, who painted the excellent pictures reproduced in color on its pages, and Katherine Fedden, who wrote the text. Few books of travel of the year equal it in prose that is both descriptive and educative, and none excels in illustrations that are a delight.

The shelf of usable little books on travel in different countries, published under the title, "Peeps at Many Lands," the first four of which appeared early in the year, is now augmented by four new volumes. The first of these, on Norway and Denmark, is by Lieutenant Colonel A. F. Mockler-Ferryman and M. Pearson Thomson. The northern sections of Europe have come into the notice of Americans during the last twenty years through the remarkable original work of their authors and musical composers. It is safe to assume that this fact alone has caused many of our people to visit these countries, and especially the homes of these famous men. The book we are reviewing is a happy compound of history and a rather minute description of physical characteristics and manners and customs of peoples. It is written in an easy, conversational prose and is illustrated by sixteen full-page plates in color.

A strong contrast to the last mentioned book is found in "Italy and Greece," by John Finnemore and Edith A. Browne. It is hard to imagine any novel addition to the extant literature on these two countries. The two writers of this number recognize the danger of imitation and have kept away from the dry and mechanical phraseology of the ordinary guide-book. They have fashioned chapters that follow a logical sequence and, as a whole, result in a book distinct from its herd. Finnemore enters Italy by an Alpine pass and travels through Lombardy to Venice and thence to Florence, Rome and the toe-district of the Italian boot, the region that fronts Sicily. There is enough of history and legend woven into the garment of his Italian narrative to give it brilliancy and worth.

Edith A. Browne has written the section on Greece, an eighty-page setting-forth of historic background, fortunately not overdone, and a decidedly cautious mingling of native customs and word-pictures of scenery. She has, in her second chapter, "How Dame Nature Fashioned Greece," a clear account of the manner in which this ragged, distorted country was twisted into shape and then carved and scalpeled.

It's a long flight from Italy and Greece to China and Japan. We land in the latter countries with Lena E. Johnston and John Finnemore, who have a commission that promises many curious contrasts. Play the modernism of the latter country against the ancient habit of the former, and one has a field of possibilities almost beyond measure. Of course, there is an old Japan visible in the streets of Tokio to-day; but the national atmosphere is one of vitality alive in the present. This century is bound to witness really stupendous changes in China, and less sweeping but dynamic ones in Japan. This travel-book is in effect a swift portrayal of two lands that have a forcible appeal to Americans in their preservations of the visible relics of a long-ago past and their edifices of an era of moment to the world. The division on China is enriched by careful descriptions of the Great Wall. The illustrations in color are pictorially instructive.

Australia is still a terra incognita to the average American, and New Zealand is to him an island on the map and little more. Yet the salient world-events of the past six years have brought the two to foregrounds that cannot be avoided by the eye and the mind. Frank Fox and P. A. Vaile are sympathetic collaborators. They touch lightly on the history of the two dominions and give, what we most desire to know, facts as to products, possibilities of development and life in the open. New Zealand is a rarely beautiful country, and its native loveliness is not forgotten by Mr. Vaile. One has a rather strange feeling of return to early nineteenth century chapters of our own national history while reading pages in this book that treat of the exploration and the conquest of "the bush" and the interior regions of Australia and New Zealand.

A Picture-Book

TOM AND TILLIE IN THE COUNTRY. By Cornelia Wright. Published by Harper & Brothers. Harper & Bros.

THESE are fill-in books consisting of half-finished drawings that little people may complete. Beneath each picture is a story of appropriate simplicity. These stories and sketches carry the youthful reader and artist through a series of events, featuring people and animals and birds. The books are attractively bound and printed and will delight many kiddies who have never had anything quite like them before.

"OLD IRVIN COBB"—a sketch by James Montgomery Flagg. Mr. Cobb's latest book, "One-Third Off," is published by George H. Doran Company.

THIS illustration is from "Martin Conisby's Vengeance," Jeffrey Farnol's new romance of adventure on the high seas in the pirate days of the Spanish Main, which Little, Brown & Co. announce for fall publication.

JOSEPH E. POGUE, who makes a strong plea for conservation of our natural riches in his new book, "America's Power Resources" (Century).

Western Humor

Tales of an Oldtime Stage Driver

CASEY RYAN. By B. M. Bower. Published by Little, Brown & Co., Boston.

"YOU can ask anybody," Casey Ryan was wont to remark, seeking justification for his stories. And that is the answer he gives to the preacher who asks him, in the final chapter, if he will have the Little Woman to be his lawful wedded wife—the Little Woman whom he finds struggling with a poor claim on the desert and who makes it possible for him to discover Injun Jim's lost mine.

Casey is an oldtime stage driver who looks at everything in a humorous way, even when he has to take to adventuring in the front seat of a Ford instead of the driver's seat of a stage, and when he has to earn a grubstake by working in a garage in the desert—a garage artfully planted in the hottest spot, where the tires of transcontinental tourists inevitably burst. Casey's adventures with Fords, Indians, tourists and such things are all broadly humorous. Also it is evident that they are from the life. They constitute a collection of frontier adventures reported by one who has thorough knowledge of the life and who lets you know that fact through many a deft touch of detail.

Casey Ryan's haps and mishaps take place in a large theater where the scenes are always shifting. The author gives you a sense of the desert's changes—its beauty and its destructiveness. One should not miss these things in getting the fragments of Casey Ryan's biography. As for the atmosphere, a shrewder commingling of the old and new would be hard to find. Casey belongs to the past, yet he fits into the Ford-filled present, and one might almost expect to find him acting as chauffeur on a passenger airplane before taking farewell of his desert.

Books like "Casey Ryan" and "The Dude Wrangler"—both by women—prove that Western humor is not dead.

Optimistic Folks

Story of an American Family Rich in Humor

THE THANKFUL SPICERS. By Agnes Mary Brownell. Published by Charles Scribner's Sons. $1.50.

Some one has said that there is a land of ..mor that skirts the country of tears. Agnes Mary Brownell, in "The Thankful Spicers," a narrative of American life in a country town, succeeds admirably in picturing people whose lives reveal the elements of joy and trouble in a series of episodes that culminate happily. This ability to merge successfully moments of soberness with those of jubilation is a marked feature of the book, and in itself is enough to make it a success.

The story deals mainly with the doings of the Spicer family, whose simple lives furnish the background of a tale full of quaint situations and humorous chat. Mrs. Spicer, the always thankful lady, is a delightful character, whose philosophy and kindness make her the outstanding figure in the book. Around her revolves the family—Mr. Spicer, who is in the hauling profession; Fanny, whose career as a stenographer is inspired by her father's purchase of an ancient typewriter; Jed, who works in a creamery, and Evalina, the youngest, who has literary ambitions. The homely atmosphere of the book is American in the truest sense of the word. It is good to be able to lay hands on a story that, without exaggeration or maudlin sentiment, gives a faithful picture of the humor and pathos peculiarly native to the average home of the soil.

Golf Ballads

LYRICS OF THE LINKS. Compiled by Henry Litchfield West. Published by the Macmillan Company. $2.

THE glories of the noble game of golf are here celebrated in verse by John Kendrick Bangs, Ring Lardner, Clinton Scollard, Grantland Rice, Tom Masson, Edgar Guest, Andrew Lang and other bards of more or less renown. The tired business man who finds his recreation in golf will doubtless sympathize with "The Golfer's Prayer," as voiced by Ring Lardner:

I do not ask for strength to drive
Three hundred yards and straight;
I do not ask to make in five
A hole that's bogey eight.
I do not want a skill in play
Which others can't attain;
I plead for but one Saturday
On which it doesn't rain.

The charm of the book is notably enhanced by a number of clever and humorous illustrations by George M. Richards.

Psychology and Ethics as Applied to Everyday Life

Practical Aspects of Modern Social Sciences Discussed From Four Angles in New Books

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF INDUSTRY. By James Drever. Published by E. P. Dutton & Co. $2.50.

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF EVERYDAY LIFE. By James Drever. Published by E. P. Dutton & Co. $2.50.

THE ELEMENTS OF SOCIAL SCIENCE. By R. M. MacIver. Published by E. P. Dutton & Co. $2.50.

COMMONSENSE ETHICS. By C. E. M. Joad. Published by E. P. Dutton & Co. $2.50.

THE most significant feature of modern psychology is its interesting applicability to the practical problems of life. There was a time when psychology was regarded almost as a branch of metaphysics. Now it is becoming more and more clear that the psychological laboratory has much to tell us about the shaping of human behavior in every-day life. The tests widely employed in the United States army to determine the relative mental efficiency and alertness of the men are being copied in some large industrial establishments.

The so-called new psychology obviously has a wide field of utility in the field of industry. The human factor is, after all, the most important, as it is the most complex and variable element in the processes of production. The progressive employer is coming to realize that contented workers are one of the best possible investments.

Mr. Drever makes it very clear that psychology in industry is not the equivalent of what is generally known as scientific management. Scientific management, at least, in the earlier stages of its development, laid itself open to the charge of overlooking the human side of industry. It was looked upon with aversion and suspicion by the workers, who looked upon it as a coldly impersonal scheme to enable the employer to exploit them more efficiently.

Now, the industrial psychologist, as Mr. Drever interprets his function, is absolutely devoid of prejudice as between employer and worker. He is not primarily interested in profits or wages. His chief concern is to secure the greatest amount of production with the least expenditure of human energy. His conclusions may seem to favor now labor, now capital; but they are scientific conclusions, reached after an objective examination of the facts in the case.

The author gives a number of examples showing the contribution which psychology has made to the smooth and efficient functioning of industry. Vocational tests help to select the right man for the right job. Intelligence tests are an aid in the same direction. A study of the amount of work produced under varying circumstances reveals the degree of fatigue which must be taken into account in apportioning work. The two concluding chapters deal with the psychology of advertising and salesmanship.

Mr. Drever's other work, "The Psychology of Every-Day Life," is a clear and intelligent summary of the fundamental principles of modern psychology, admirably adapted for the use of the reader who is unable to make an exhaustive study of the subject. The author acknowledges particular indebtedness to the work of McDougall, Stout, Morton Prince, Itchener, William James, White, Pfister and Freud.

Since the war an unusually large number of books dealing with spiritistic phenomena have made their appearance. Some advocates of spiritism, such as Conan Doyle and Sir Oliver Lodge, claim for it almost the authority of a new religion. Admitting the reality of some spiritistic manifestations, Mr. Drever contends that psychology is able to furnish a plausible and satisfactory interpretation for them. He is inclined to dispute the more extravagant claims of the spiritualists. He is not awed by the authority of Sir Oliver Lodge's name.

"The mere fact," he writes, "that an eminent physicist or chemist has pronounced in favor of a spiritistic solution (of psychological phenomena) can carry no more weight than would be given in physical theory to the fact that a prominent psychologist had adopted a spiritistic theory of magnetic induction."

Mr. MacIver traces the course of social evolution from the primitive life of early communities to the complex existence of the modern city. In analyzing the relation between society and the individual he steers a middle course between the Scylla of anarchy and the Charybdis of state autheritarianism. Like Kant, he feels that the individual personality is the most sacred thing in the world, but this personality is, of course, circumscribed by regard for the personalities of others. The book ends with a strong appeal to discard institutions which are no longer able to fulfill the indispensable requirement of service to the race.

Mr. Joad gives as an excuse for writing his book the desirability of putting ethics into some kind of relation with life. This has not been done by most of the philosophers of the past, whose systems have had little appreciable influence upon human conduct. The author finds the dominating element and purpose of existence in something which he calls the Life Force—a constant impulse toward progress in the direction of a freer and richer life. So he rejects the nihilist pessimism of Schopenhauer and the extreme materialism professed by some modern scientists, and feels that "it is the business of individuals to carry forward the purposes of the Life Force." His thought is obviously strongly influenced by the Behaviorist theory and by the psychoanalytic psychology of Freud and Jung.

Science for Life

Applying Knowledge to Human Problems

THE CONTROL OF LIFE. By J. Arthur Thomson. Published by Henry Holt & Co.

THE historian of the future will perhaps find the outstanding distinctive feature of the last century in the remarkably rapid advance which took place in almost every branch of scientific knowledge. During this period the results of scientific discovery dominated human life as never before. The destinies of nations were shaped by the railroad and the telegraph, by the new uses of steam and electricity far more than by the victories of generals and the schemes of diplomats.

The central idea of Professor Thomson's book is that science can be made to serve life still more effectively in the future. He believes that the best hope of human progress lies in the progressive application of trained intelligence to problems which have hitherto been neglected and left to chance for their solutions.

There are very few departments of life that have not been touched by the forward march of science. Our ancestors looked upon famine and pestilence as inevitable visitations of Providence. Present-day medical science and the development of modern means of transportation have eliminated both in advanced countries. Biology and psychology have accomplished great things in safeguarding the health and the mentality of the race. If we cannot control the wilder phenomena of nature, we can at least understand them and do much to check their more destructive manifestations.

Just because science has done so much in the past the scientist is confident that it will do much more in the future. Professor Thomson gives an inspiring picture of new untapped sources of energy which may be released by further progress in all the branches of knowledge. Written in a delightfully popular style, his book is calculated to focus our attention upon the bright future which is in store for mankind if goodwill can only keep pace with the development of science and intelligence.

The North Woods

Thrilling Tale of Girl Who Goes Blind

SNOW-BLIND. By Katharine Newlin Burt. Published by Houghton, Mifflin Co. $1.50.

A GOOD novel that brings to the reader's safe and comfortable fireside the atmosphere of the North, with its far-off fastnesses of ice and snow, its vast deeps and wide spaces, its possible perils, is assured of success. There is a singular charm about a cabin in a frozen wilderness that one cannot resist. The pleasing contrast of its congealed exterior, with its interior warmth and coziness, is seductive. Katharine Newlin Burt has given us in "Snow-Blind" a new story of this fascinating clime that holds the imagination as constantly as if pictured on the screen before us. The skill of the true storyteller is revealed in the plot of this novel, the scenes and events of which are conveyed in vivid coloring and swift movement.

Ham Rutherford, under the alias of Hugh Garth, hides himself from the law in the icy hills of this northland, having become a murderer through an unreasoning temper. His only companions are a younger brother, Pete, and a fathful cousin, Bella, who love and defend him in spite of his strange and contradictory nature, in which harshness and hate fight against affection and gentleness. Into the lives of this trio comes a girl from the world beyond the wilds, a lovely creature, strayed from a stalled train and lost in a snowstorm. Hugh finds her blinded by the snow and carries her to his cabin in the mountains. His tender care of her, his beautiful voice and his fanciful stories about himself lead the blind girl to believe that she loves him, until her sight is restored and she sees his uncouth body and nature and contrasts them with those of his loyal and lovable brother. The book is full of vitality, without a dragging line, and is certain to furnish a stumlant for the most jaded fancy.

Magazine Fiction

Thirteen Short Stories of High Grade

"STORIES EDITORS BUY AND WHY." By Jean Wick. Published by Small, Maynard & Co. $2.

HERE is a new idea. Jean Wick has collected in one volume thirteen short stories from the pages of as many different magazines. Each one of them is a member of class A in the ranks of tales of its type and to a marked degree represents the form of story best suited to the demands of the magazine from which it is taken. Marie Van Vorst, Rupert Hughes, Fannie Hurst and Edna Ferber are among the dozen and one writers who figure in the book, and the collection as a whole is a significant argument for the short story as an important and to-be-developed vehicle for the enshrining of a central idea in a terse narrative.

The chief value of "Stories Editors Buy and Why" lies in its advice to writers who would try their hands on the short story. The Prefatory Note, which contains shrewd suggestions, is amplified by the group of letters at the end of the book, written by the manuscript editors of over forty leading American magazines. These letters alone are worth the price of the book, for they give what we have not seen before in so compressed a space, the inside opinions of editors as to certain forms of narrative and types of stories that best suit their individual fields of readers. A noval and decidedly useful addition to the literature of the short story.

Sixteenth Century in England Shown as Era of Individualism

Our Knowledge and Appreciation of Elizabethan Age Enriched by Lewis Einstein's Interpretative Study

TUDOR IDEALS. By Lewis Einstein. Published by Harcourt, Brace & Co. $3.50.

THE sixteenth century in England was preeminently a period of flux dieval feudalism had been broken, but the ideals of modern society had not taken firm root. Old standards and beliefs disappeared with startling rapidity; the seizure of church property, the rapid increase in national wealth, the voyages of discovery and adventure to the New World, the spiritual ideas of the Reformation and the cultural ideas of the Renaissance, all these factors contributed to the unsettlement of the stable and rigid established order of the Middle Ages.

In studying this era, so full of rich and contradictory manifestations of energy, Mr. Einstein employs a technique which suggests Mr. Lytton Strachey's brilliant analysis of the personality of Queen Victoria. Casting aside the restrains of chronological order, he picks out the salient characteristics of the age, as illustrated in the actions of its rulers, in the writings of its poets and scholars, in the customs of its people. His work is infinitely more valuable and fascinating than the conventional history, because it is not a mere narrative of events; it rather explains why certain events happened and how they are related to the culture of the time.

The sixteenth century, especially during its early decades, was an age of rampant and defiant individualism, of revolt against the petrified stratification of feudal society. The power of the church, incomparably the strongest international force of the Middle Ages, was challenged. Doctrines which had been held sacred throughout Christendom for more than a thousand years were officially cast aside. The break-down of the old faith led first to a widely held conception of religion as a state matter, in which the sovereign's will should be binding. Gradually a stronger instinct for individual liberty of conscience led to the growth of Puritanism.

The Reformation in England also had important material results. The confiscation and sale of an enormous amount of church property favored the rise of a class of newly enriched individuals.

There was a rapid and substantial revision of accepted moral values throughout the sixteenth century. The internationalism of the medieval church and the loose particularism fostered by the feudal system alike gave way to the centralism of a strongly organized national state. Patriotism was fostered alike by the awakening national consciousness and by the knowledge that this virtue was highly esteemed by the Greeks and Romans. The crown increased enormously in prestige, especially under such politic sovereigns as Henry VIII and Elizabeth, who understood the art of ruling despotically and still retaining a measure of personal popularity.

The Elizabethan age is universally associated with the qualities of adventure, initiative and exhuberant energy These were the natural products of the vast store of individualism which was released after the long confinement of the Middle Ages. A further manifestation of individualism is to be found in the moral and ethical standards of the time. The old sanctions of custom, authority and tradition were so much weakened that men felt pretty free to do as seemed right in their own eyes. For good or for evil, human conduct was determined by personal conceptions of honor or expediency far more than any binding general code.

It was only under the Tudors that England commenced to emerge as a great sea power. Previously the merchants of Venice and Genoa, of Hamburg and Cadiz, had been more adventurous than their British rivals. The early voyages of discovery set out from Spanish, Portuguese and Italian ports. But the discovery of the New World, coinciding with a notable awakening of English national consciousness, created a new instinct for maritime adventure. Drake, Hawkins, Raleigh, Frobisher and many others laid the foundation for England's subsequent proud boast that she ruled the waves.

The history of the Sixteenth Century, as Mr. Einstein proves with numerous concrete examples, is full of moral contradictions and paradoxes. Latimer and Cranmer under Mary, the Jesuits under Elizabeth, could die with the utmost constancy for their religious faith. Yet the opinion was widely held that the sovereign possessed the right to decide the belief of his subjects; and it is to this theory, as much as to servility or indifference, that the frequent shifts of creed must be ascribed.

It is doubtful if the power of the crown was ever greater in England. The old check imposed by the medieval barons was destroyed; and parliament was not yet strong enough to oppose the royal will effectively. Yet liberal and even republican theories were not uncommonly encountered in the writings of the time. Erasmus and More and other philosophers lifted their voices persuasively against the horror and folly of war; but warfare was almost universal, and was waged with the most revolting cruelty. Neither the Renaissance nor the Reformation really accomplished much in inculcating respect for the sacredness of human life.

Tudor England is all the more interesting on account of its contradictions and inconsistencies. By vividly delineating the essential tendencies and characteristics of the period, Mr. Einstein has achieved a masterpiece of historical recreation. His book is calculated to inspire the wish that a similar technique of intelligent psychological appreciation could be brought to bear upon other historical cycles. What Mr. Einstein has done for England Burckhardt has already done, on a monumental scale, for the Renaissance; and Taine, despite his conservative bias, has proceded along similar lines in his works on the old régime and the French Revolution. But there is room for far more books of this kind. Some enterprising scholar should attack the problem of England in the seventeenth century and explain why the British, with their double genius for compromise and conservatism, ever indulged in such radical excesses as the Commonwealth and the Puritan dictatorship.